



Emergency Management  
Fax: (509) 628-2621

## **BENTON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**651 Truman Avenue  
Richland, Washington 99352  
(509) 628-2600**



Southeast Communications Center  
Fax: (509) 628-2622

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 8/17/2007  
Contact: Steve Sautter  
(509) 628-0303  
(509) 539-0312

TIME: 4:30 a.m. (Release 2)

### **Wautoma Road Fire Continues to Burn**

Richland, Wash.—The wildland fire that started around 1 p.m. Thursday in northwestern Benton County near Wautoma Road continues to burn. The fire has consumed an estimated 72,000 acres including areas of the Hanford Site, the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve and peripheral areas in Benton County. It is estimated to be nearly 60 percent contained as of 4 a.m. Friday. It should be noted that the portions of the fire on the Hanford Site were contained Thursday evening.

Benton County has requested and received approval for state mobilization assistance. Crews from around the state will be arriving today to fight the fire.

Crews from multiple fire agencies in Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Yakima, and Grant counties, including the Hanford Fire Department, responded to the fire. As of early Friday morning, there were about 200 firefighters with nearly 90 pieces of equipment on the fire lines.

No injuries or structural damage have been reported.

The cause of the fire is unknown at this time.

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